

From: Trevor Doerksen
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/18/01 11:05am
Subject: Moving the big ship

Microsoft is a fantastic company with some great product. However, not all of its products are superior to its competitors and often demonstrate an ability to develop exactly what the market doesn't need, (e.g. Insecure server software, mediums in which viruses are able to flourish, and code that can affect the performance of 3rd part software within their browser or OS).

Even though they are a huge company they seem able to move this big ship with pinpoint accuracy when it comes to eliminating competition through its approach to international standards and 3rd party software. Although not examples of these practices were discussed at the trial, and some new "dirty practices" have been witnessed, I think this is one of the most important things about MS technology and its approach to others.

As a monopoly, MS should have to clearly define to the rest of the market where it is going, when, and how it might impact those companies working with and in MS eyes against them to install and view software on its OS. A recent example of eliminating its plug-in architecture for its browser demonstrates the ability that a simple move can eliminate competition even further.

From a punitive point of view, I believe in a break up. From a solutions-focused point of view, I believe in full disclosure of its strategy, code, future directions, and all business meetings minutes be made public so that the public, media, government, etc. is able to keep their eyes on a company that demonstrates its continuing power with dominance over the market.

It won't be long until there is only one company selling word processing software, media players, and browsers in the world. This can only be good if we don't believe in a free market. Opening up source code and other company information for the market to openly compete is necessary. Like drug patents a time advantage can be put forward to the company that demonstrate research and development (not just buying or in most cases stealing ideas, information, and strategies) a very short term exclusive (the technology world moves fast) right to gain an in on the market.

Thanks,

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